Land Allotment

4749. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government as a measure of special dispensation has been alloting land particularly in cantonment areas of the country without taking any recourse to the environmental protection;

(b) if so, whether violation of environmental rules by defence cantonments pertaining to their land allotment has been investigated;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No special dispensation has been made under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land in cantonment areas.

(b) No violation of environmental rules by the defence cantonments has come to the notice of the Ministry, and as such question of investigation regarding land allotment does not arise.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Compensation to Cyclone Victims

4750. SHRI S. RAMCHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fishermen of Andhra Pradesh have sought immediate compensation for those who lost lives in Cyclone in November, 1996; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government on their request/demand?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is a demand for payment of exgratia relief to the families to those fishermen who are still reported to be missing.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have already paid exgratia assistance at the rate of Rs. 1.00 lakh per person to the families of 192 fishermen who died in the cyclone of November, 1996. Out of the remaining cases, the State Government have now decided to treat 1279 missing fishermen as dead and give financial assistance at the above rates to their families.

Development of Venilla Crop

4751. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent any scheme for the development of Venilla crop in the State;

(b) if so, the details and estimated cost thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government had sanctioned the amount sought for under the scheme; and

(d) the places where the development work of Venilla crop is likely to be taken up in the State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The proposal for the Pilot Scheme for Development of Venilla in an area of 300 acres with financial outlay of Rs. 242.40 lakh for five year was sent by Government of Karnataka in February 1996.

(c) and (d) The scheme could not be sanctioned as Planning Commission was not considering new proposals in the last year of the VIII Plan. Government of Karnataka, however, proposes to implement the scheme in Dakshan Kannada, Uttara Kannada and Shimoga districts as a State sector scheme during 1997-98.

[Translation]

Nuclear Funds for Tribal Projects

4752. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the provision for spending Central nuclear funds in the tribal development projects;

(b) the items of work on which this fund can be spent;

(c) whether recommendation of the local Member of Parliament is sought for spending this fund; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) This Ministry does not operate funds called "Central Nuclear Funds". However, Special Central Assistance is given to 20 Tribal Sub-Plan States/UTs for socio-economic development of tribals and for their protection from exploitation. Earlier, a certain amount of fund was not spent as additional Special Central Assistance to meet such costs of Specific Schemes for development of tribals as may be taken up by the States/ UTs. The Scheme of Additional Special Central Assistance